

Title of Session: WebTools
Moderator: Pam Berger
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Room: After School Online Room

MargaretD: Welcome to Web Tools

PamB: Let's wait a minute before we start the session.

HollyP: OK

MargaretD: first we should introduce ourselves

PamB: yes, let's introduce ourselves.

MelanieI: I am Melanie, I teach fifth grade in Fallbrook, CA.

PatriciaK1: I am a preservice, science, 4-8 teacher at the University of Houston. I will student teach in the spring

MargaretD: I teach Businesses English freelance in companies in Germany

PamB: I'm Pam, a library/technology consultant from NY. I work with school districts around the country.

HollyP: I'm Holly, I'm a pre-service EC-4teacher from University of Houston

MargaretD: Welcome!

PamB: Great Thanks for coming tonight.

PamB: Do any of you blog?

MargaretD: . o O (actually morning here)

MelanieI: No, I don't. blog

PatriciaK1: No, I don't.

PamB: Hi Kelly, we just introduced ourselves.

MargaretD: Kelly we just had introductions

MaryMos: forgive me but I don't know what blog is?

HollyP: I'm not quite sure. What is blog?

KellyZ: Hi all

PamB: Well, I thought we could look at blogging and think about how we could use it with students.

MaryMos: never heard of it

KellyZ: I'm not sure what blogging is

HollyP: Neither have I

PamB: Blogging is a new form of a website...

MargaretD: a web log

MaryMos: oh

PamB: it's very interactive and immediate.

PatriciaK1: can't you share personal information about yourself

KellyZ: sounds interesting

PamB: the name comes from web log

PamB: exactly...

PamB: that's usually called a vanity blog.

PatriciaK1: Would you consider a WIKI a form of blog?

MaryMos: what is a WIKI?

MelanieI: What is WIKI?

KellyZ: WIKI?

PamB: I have posted a page on my website...

PamB: the Information Searcher on blogs...

PamB: Why don't I give you the URL...

MaryMos: A blog is your easy-to-use web site, where you can quickly post thoughts, interact with people, and more

HollyP: That would be great!

PamB: and you can explore a few blogs and articles on blogging for about 15 minutes...

MargaretD: for anyone who wants a bigger text window go to actions and detach

KellyZ: sounds like a great resource

PamB: and then come back here and we can discuss them and I'll answer any questions you have.

MelanieI: Great what is the URL?

PamB: the address is <http://www.infosearcher.com/blogs.htm> Don't forget to come back!

MelanieI: Be back in 15 minutes.

HollyP: Ok

PamB: what time is it in Germany?

MargaretD: I have that website

MargaretD: 1.16am

PamB: you must be tired.

MargaretD: not really

MargaretD: I am a night owl

PamB: good thing for us!

MargaretD: I gave up classes at 7.30am

PamB smiles

MargaretD: I hate getting up in the dark

PamB: Do you work on the help desk?

MargaretD: yes

PamB: is it fun?

MargaretD: and give tips and tricks tours

MargaretD: I enjoy it

PamB: I imagine you meet some interesting people

MargaretD: that's for sure

PamB laughs

MargaretD: I can't believe they have never heard of blogs

PamB: I run into that all the time.

MargaretD: old hat on Webheads

MaryMos: I see that blogs have been around for a little over 5 years

PamB: yea...in many places...even the USA campaign trail

MargaretD: world wide

PamB: yes, but still are not mainstream yet.

MargaretD: may be better

PamB: why is that?

MargaretD: spoils things

PamB smiles

MargaretD: like when I first went online in 1996

PamB: Do either of you follow any blogs, daily?

MargaretD: it was a LOT different

AlberthaC joined the room.

MaryMos: I haven't heard of blogs until tonight

MaryMos: so no

MargaretD: some political ones

MargaretD: but not every day

KellyZ: I haven't heard of them either

PamB: me neither, but there are some library reference ones I check regularly.

MargaretD: some get to be like big brother

HollyP: The library blogs sound really great

MelanieI: So many people have blogs they visit everyday. Can anyone have one?

KellyZ: I looked at some of the classroom blogs and they looked interesting

PamB: I just set up a new blog earlier this evening for a group of graduate school students to use with their mentors. It was so quick and easy...

MelanieI: I also enjoyed seeing some of the classroom ones, are they a lot of work to maintain?

KellyZ: they look like a lot of work to maintain

PamB: it took 1/4 the time a regular website would have.

MaryMos: how do you look at blogs?

KellyZ: it looked like the teacher did all of the work

PamB: No blogs are not hard to maintain...

HollyP: Blogs sound easy to use

PatriciaK1: I think the use of blogs can be very positive for the students hesitant to speak out in class

PamB: that's why they are becoming popular.

KellyZ: good point

KellyZ: good for ESL students

PamB: You can post to your blog as easy as you can send an email

MelanieI: Would you actually use blogs with students during class time?

PamB: many writing classes in HS and College are requiring students to sue blogs to write everyday.

HollyP: That would have been good for me because I was always a hesitant as a student when answering questions

PamB: no not necessarily during class but evenings and weekends

MelanieI: Are they writing from home or on campus in class?

PamB: from home

PamB: and one student reads another student's blog and adds comments

MelanieI: Then that brings up the issue of access, not all students have access to computers.

PamB: public libraries?

MaryMos: so it can be used for peer editing?

PamB: or afternoon after school in the computer lab or school library

KellyZ: good way for students to get feedback on their writing

PamB: yes and student interaction and discussion on topics.

PatriciaK1: I think this is a great tool for teachers to give immediate feedback to students and identify misconceptions

HollyP: That's a great way to start up discussions

MaryMos: the students can get feedback for a lot of sources

PamB: and the best part is that you can create a blog for free...

MaryMos: they are easy I just did one tonight as a test

PamB: do you want to go create a blog? right now?

KellyZ: is it free to maintain

MelanieI: How do you create one?

HollyP: sure

PatriciaK1: yes

MaryMos: I went to blogger.com

PamB: at www.blogger.com

PamB: just sign in, choose a template and start posting.

PamB: you can delete it later if you want.

PamB: who's game?

MaryMos: I am

KellyZ: I'll do it

HollyP: Me too

PatriciaK1: me too

MelanieI: Sure

PamB: go do it and then come back here and give us the URL and we'll comment on your first posting.

PamB: <http://www.blogger.com>

HollyP: what should we put for our first posting?

PamB: anything you want...make it up...maybe a welcome message.

MargaretD . o O (a letter to Santa Claus)

PamB: This is a great group! risk takers!

HollyP: Yeah but it is a little scary

PamB: I'm here if you need any help.

MargaretD . o O (virtual boos in the ether)

MelanieI: What is the title of the blog for.

MelanieI: Should it be my name?

PamB: no

PatriciaK1: my connection failed when I was posting

KellyZ: once I create one then what?

PamB: It is usually the topic of the blog.

MaryMos: www.afterschoolonlineMM.blogspot.com

PamB: did you publish it and make one posting?

KellyZ: yes

MaryMos: yes

PatriciaK1: here is my blog, I think

PatriciaK1: sorry, let me try again

PamB: I'm adding a comment to Mary's blog...be right back

HollyP: Wow that was really easy. Here's mine <http://hollysweblog.blogspot.com/>

KellyZ: here's mine www.KellyZblog.blogspot.com

PamB: Good job. Now click on someone else's blog and comment on their first posting.

PatriciaK1: here it is I hope <http://preserviceteachers.blogspot.com/>

MaryMos: Not hard at all to do

MaryMos: Can you search blogs for specific topics?

PatriciaK1: I really like the ease of using the site

HollyP: Great job everyone!

PamB: blogs could also be used to keep parents updated on what is going on the classroom.

HollyP: How do you add postings to your web log now that we have created it?

MaryMos: so instead of using something like yahoo groups you could use blogs?

MargaretD: Hi Jean

PamB: That's so cool ! all of you did it?

JeanCh: Hi, what's going on?

MargaretD: Web Tools about blogs Jean

PamB: yes, but also blogs are searched on most search engines...so others can come across them unlike yahoo groups which is really a listserv

PamB: only one person post to the blog unless...

PamB: you make it a team blog by inviting others to join your blog

MaryMos: I see

PamB: all of you posts are put into an archive on the blog

PamB: and can be searched by date.

MelanieI: How long after posting are they archived?

PamB: as the blog owner you decide how many posts will remain on the page....

PatriciaK1: great way for students to go back and review discussions

PamB: as they go off the page...maybe 10 down...it is then put in the archive

PatriciaK1: less paperwork

MelanieI: I agree it is a great resource.

MaryMos: So you said that the HS students use this, how could middle schoolers use it?

PatriciaK1: discussion on concepts in science

PamB: It tends not to be a discussion as much as a posting and other people commenting on that post.

PatriciaK1: oh

PatriciaK1: So a teacher could start with a posting on a topic and have students elaborate?

PamB: sometimes one blogger comments on what is on another blog and that starts a discussion across blogs.

PamB: there are sub groups of bloggers on particular subjects...like the presidential campaign.

MelanieI: So kind of like a discussion board, I am attending school and we post on a discussion board.

MaryMos: can you limit who sees the blog?

PamB: no

PamB: blogs are posted to the Internet...open access.

PamB: but I think it would be a fluke if someone found yours...there are so many.

PamB: Well, it almost time to end.

PamB: Thanks so much this was fun.

PatriciaK1: thank you for sharing this very useful tool

MargaretD: any other questions?

PatriciaK1: I hope to use it in some capacity in the near future

MelanieI: I read on the website we looked at that there are 544,000 weblogs in libraries alone.

PamB: join me next month for web tools.

PatriciaK1: bye

MelanieI: Thanks for sharing about blogs!

MaryMos: it was educational

MargaretD: thanks for coming

HollyP: Bye, thank you for the great web tool resource!

PamB: you're welcome!